

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 431  
By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Laura Nell Jessee Thomas of Bluff City for her outstanding contributions to the Tennessee Republican Party.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly recognize those exemplary individuals whose contributions have had a significant impact on this great state; and

WHEREAS, Laura Thomas is one such outstanding individual who is most assuredly deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, born in Artrip, Virginia, Laura was educated at Artrip Elementary School and Cleveland High School; and

WHEREAS, she received a degree in Business from Bluefield College in Bluefield, West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Laura married Reed H. Thomas, Jr. and moved to Bluff City; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Thomas was employed by the L. C. King Manufacturing Company as the bookkeeper, where she worked for 25 meritorious years until her retirement; and

WHEREAS, finding retirement unfulfilling, Laura Thomas returned to work as the Office Manager for J.G. Adams Builders; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1980s, Laura Thomas became a member of the Bristol Tennessee Republican Women's Club, and shortly thereafter she became actively involved in the Tennessee Republican Party; and

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WHEREAS, throughout her remarkable tenure in Republican Party politics, Laura Thomas has served in numerous capacities, even a brief list of which is inspiring: Past-President of the Bristol Tennessee Republican Women's Club, Vice-Chairman for the 1<sup>st</sup> District of Republican Women, Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the Bristol Tennessee Republican Women's Club, a member of the Sullivan County Primary Board, Delegate to the Tennessee Federation of Republican Women's Convention, Vice-Chairman of the Sullivan County Republican Party and Committee member for the Lincoln Day Dinner; and

WHEREAS, for the past six years, Laura Thomas has served with acumen and acuity on the Sullivan County Executive Board; and

WHEREAS, she also serves on the State Republican Executive Board where she is on the important Candidate Recruitment Committee; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Governor Don Sundquist appointed Laura Thomas to the Tennessee Arts Commission and presented her with a certificate appointing her as a Colonel Aide de Camp on his staff; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Senator Fred Thompson appointed Laura Thomas to the Silver Haired Convention in Washington, D.C., the only delegate representing the great state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a devout Presbyterian, Laura Thomas served as Past President of the Holston Presbyterian Women and continues to be an active and devoted member of the Thomas Memorial Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, few individuals possess the unflagging commitment and unwavering support for their community and state as Laura Thomas, and it is entirely appropriate that this General Assembly should specially recognize this outstanding lady; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Mrs. Laura Thomas for her outstanding contributions to the Republican Party, and to the people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.